

Measurement of the CKM Angle Alpha at the BABAR Detector Using B Meson Decays to Rho Final States

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Work supported by Department of Energy contract DE-AC02-76SF00515.

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BABAR DETECTOR USING B MESON DECAYS TO RHO
FINAL STATES

by

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A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
(PHYSICS)

at the

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON

2005

Abstract

This thesis contains the results of an analysis of $B^0 \rightarrow \rho^+ \rho^-$ using 232 million $\Upsilon(4S) \rightarrow B\bar{B}$ decays collected with the BABAR detector at the $PEP-II$ asymmetric-energy B Factory at SLAC. From a fitted signal yield of 617 ± 52 events, the longitudinal polarizations fraction, f_L , of the decay is measured to be $0.978 \pm 0.014(\text{stat})^{+0.021}_{-0.029}(\text{syst})$.

The nearly fully longitudinal dominance of the $B^0 \rightarrow \rho^+ \rho^-$ decay allows for a measurement of the time dependent CP parameters S_L and C_L , where the first parameter is sensitive to mixing induced CP violation and the second one to direct CP violation. From the same signal yield, these values are found to be $S_L = -0.33 \pm 0.24(\text{stat})^{+0.08}_{-0.14}(\text{syst})$ and $C_L = -0.03 \pm 0.18(\text{stat}) \pm 0.09(\text{syst})$.

The CKM angle α is then determined, using these results and the branching fractions and polarizations of the decays $B^0 \rightarrow \rho^0 \rho^0$ and $B^+ \rightarrow \rho^+ \rho^0$. This measurement is done with an isospin analysis, in which a triangle is constructed from the isospin amplitudes of these three decay modes. A χ^2 expression that includes the measured quantities expressed as the lengths of the sides of the isospin triangles is constructed and minimized to determine a confidence level on α . Selecting the solution compatible with the Standard Model, one obtains $\alpha = 100^\circ \pm 13^\circ$.

Acknowledgments

I am very grateful for the support and guidance of my adviser Sau Lan Wu, who is always fully committed to helping her students achieve success.

I would also like to thank members of my research group in particular Paul Kutter, Mathew Graham, Mousumi Datta and Jinwei Wu for their friendship and help during my stay at SLAC. In addition I would like to thank Yibin Pan for his assistance when I was starting out at BABAR. This work would not have been possible without the close and fruitful collaboration with Adrian Bevan, Christophe Yèche and Christos Touramanis. I am forever indebted to them for their hard work and commitment to pursuing this analysis.

I also wish to thank my parents Julianna and Daniel Mihalyi for providing me with great opportunities and constant support to achieve my dreams. Finally I would like to thank my wife Michele, whose love, support and encouragement have been immensely important.

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